



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:56 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Edwin Burke.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2012-0091 Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Antipas.

2012-0109 Proclamation Recognizing Lori Huckins

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

2012-0116 Proclamation Recognizing Earth Day

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.

2012-0122 Proclamation Honoring Virgil Huntley

Read

The proclamation was read by Mayor Somers.

2012-0123 Proclamation Honoring Edwin Burke

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor O'Beirne.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2012-0098 Approval of Lease with TVCCA for a Daycare Center at Former Community Policing Building

Heard at Public Hearing

Mayor Somers called a recess for the Public Hearing at 8:09 p.m.

The Notice of Public Hearing pursuant to a resolution passed by the Town Council was read by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

The Town Manager noted that an affirmative 8-24 referral from the Planning Commission has been received. He stated that TVCCA operates a head-start program and an early day care center at two other locations on Central Avenue. This property is between those two.

There being no further comments, Mayor Somers closed the Public Hearing at 8:11 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Vicki Anderson, 755 Lantern Hill Road, Ledyard, would like SEC-TV to be the provider of community access television services for our area. She is an executive for a non-profit in Pawcatuck, and she feels that non-profits are a cost saving to Towns. Ms. Anderson remarked that she is opposed to a municipality being a community access cable provider.

Peter Roper, 210 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, supports SEC-TV. He attended the State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) hearing in New Britain, where a compromise was suggested. He hopes that the Council will adopt that compromise. He believes that the Town has spent a lot of money on this issue unnecessarily.

Frank Fulchiero, 10 Fort Rachel Place, Mystic, noted that both the Town and SEC-TV have applied to provide public, educational and government cable access. He stated that SEC-TV was established 20 years ago, and is based on the Comcast cable public access studio and equipment. Mr. Fulchiero urged the Council to support SEC-TV's application.

Terri Roper, 210 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, stated that Groton will be deciding whether it wants to accept the compromise from DPUC, and does not think that Groton should be running all three public access channels. It will be a big volunteer effort, but Ms. Roper believes that SEC-TV should be the cable provider for Channel 12.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0125 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 29, 2012 and April 3, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0108 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

M. S. Douglass - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Matthew Dyer - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Elisa Giommi - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
David Johnson - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Bruce and Nancy LaBelle - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Meire LaFontaine - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Timothy and Helen Moore - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Martha Oxnard - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program

Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Bruno Timpano - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Nancy Winkler - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, Gray and Greenberg, P.C. - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation
Revolving
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2012-0111 FYE 2012 Fourth Quarter Transfers

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0117 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2013

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0118 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2013)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0119 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2013)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0120 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2013)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0124 Referral of Godfrey Street Easement to Planning Commission Under CGS Sec. 8-24

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2012-0098 Approval of Lease with TVCCA for a Daycare Center at Former Community Policing Building

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Peruzzotti threw out the first pitch at Washington Park on opening day for Little League Baseball.

Councilor Watson and Councilor Schmidt attended the Arbor Day celebration at Mary Morrison School.

Councilor Watson attended a Groton Business Association breakfast, a Fiftieth Anniversary celebration for Cutler Middle School, and a middle school transitional meeting with Superintendent Kadri and middle school students. He is communicating with a representative from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding the Trails Pond Dam and the possible reintroduction of alewives.

Councilor Antipas attended a Boating Advisory Board meeting. He noted that the Noank Rowing Club will be having a spaghetti dinner on May 4, 2012.

Councilor Flax attended S.B. Butler science night.

Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, and Mayor Somers attended the RTM Annual Budget

meeting.

Councilor Johnson attended Economic Development Commission meetings and participated in the Coast Guard Academy Tim Thorpe Golf Tournament in Florida.

Mayor Somers, along with her daughter, read to students at Mary Morrison pre-school. She attended a Council of Governments (COG) meeting, the UCONN Earth Day event, and various RTM committee meetings.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk noted that the RTM Annual Budget meeting began on April 30, 2012, and will continue to recess as often as needed until the budget is completed on or before May 25, 2012. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on May 9, 2012.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk noted that there was a 14% turnout for the Republican Presidential Preference Primary. The next election will be held on August 13, 2012, for Democratic and Republican Primaries for U.S. Senate open seats.

d. Town Manager

*The Town Manager stated that the Department of Transportation (DOT) will be resurfacing Cow Hill Road from Interstate I-95 to Route 184 starting this week thru May 10, 2012. The Town has received a favorable 8-24 referral from the Planning Commission regarding an easement for 8B Godfrey Street, Mystic. He announced that the Town Historian, Jim Streeter, will give a presentation on *Who is Robert E. Fitch?* on May 20, 2012.*

2012-0134 Board of Education Contract Negotiations

BOARD OF EDUCATION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri informed the Council that the Board of Education has begun negotiations with its teachers' bargaining unit, and noted that the Council is entitled to have a representative present. Mayor Somers made a referral to the Committee of the Whole for discussion of this item.

2012-0133 Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) Request for Endorsement of Candlewood Ridge (Lambtown Road) Land Purchase

GROTON OPEN SPACE ASSOCIATION (GOSA) REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT OF CANDLEWOOD RIDGE (LAMBTOWN ROAD) LAND PURCHASE

The Town Manager received information from President of Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) Joan Smith. GOSA will be submitting an application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to purchase a 91-acre parcel of land off Lambtown Road and Gold Star Highway, and seeks the Council's endorsement for the purchase. Mayor Somers made a referral to the Committee of the Whole.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole toured the police station and will have a video-tape made so that the public can see its condition. An executive session was held to discuss the community access television application to DPUC.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Somers gave an update on the status of the Vision Committee. The Board of Education is in the process of updating the Master Plan. The Town Council and Board of Education will act as a school planning task force to determine how to move forward with planning, arranging, and retro-fitting schools. Therefore, when a committee is formed, it will have direction from the Town Council and Board of Education. A list of possible members is being formulated.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2012-0098****Approval of Lease with TVCCA for a Daycare Center at Former Community Policing Building**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TVCCA FOR THE PREMISES AT 38 CENTRAL AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA) has provided daycare programs and other needed social services to Groton residents in cooperation with the Town of Groton, and

WHEREAS, TVCCA current leases from the Town of Groton the premises at 36 and 40 Central Avenue where TVCCA operates children's programs, and

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Groton Town Manager, may execute a lease of the premises at 38 Central Avenue to TVCCA for daycare purposes for a term ending April 30, 2017.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Flax noted that while driving through Mystic on Saturday night in the area near Daniel Packer Inn, he noticed about twenty cars that were illegally parked. He wondered if part of the lack of parking was due to the construction in Downtown Mystic, and if perhaps something could be arranged for employee parking somewhere to free-up spaces for patrons.

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider a resolution authorizing a deed of easement for 8B Godfrey Street was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

2012-0121 Godfrey Street - Request for Easement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DEED OF EASEMENT FOR 8B GODFREY STREET IN MYSTIC

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton owns a paper street located off Godfrey Street in Mystic, and

WHEREAS, the paper street provides the sole access to a public street for a number of lots including 8B Godfrey Street, and

WHEREAS, representatives of a future purchaser have requested that the Town grant a formal access easement over the paper street for 8B Godfrey Street, and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2012 the Planning Commission reviewed the proposed easement under CGS Section 8-24 and expressed their support, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to have prepared and to execute a Deed of Easement for 8B Godfrey Street.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant